

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are pending for consideration in the present application. Claims 9, 17 – 19, 26, 29 and 30 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

On December 14, 2010, Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement (hereinafter (“the IDS”)) accompanied by a form PTO-1449 (hereinafter “the PTO-1449”) that listed a U.S. Patent document, several foreign patent documents, and two other documents (hereinafter “the subject documents”), namely (i) an Office Action dated October 6, 2003¹ corresponding to German Patent Application No. 102 59 391.4-31, and (ii) German Opposition Proceedings dated July 13, 2006 corresponding to German Patent Application No. 102 59 391.4-31. The Office Action, on page 2, notes that the IDS did not include a concise explanation of the relevance of the subject documents, and so further indicates that the subject documents have not been considered. Accordingly, the Office returned a copy of the PTO-1449 on which the listings for the subject documents have been lined through.

German Patent Application No. 102 59 391.4-31 is a German counterpart of the present application. The subject documents concern prosecution of German Patent Application No. 102 59 391.4-31. Applicants included copies of the subject documents with the IDS merely to show that several references that are cited in the present application were also considered in the prosecution of German Patent Application No. 102 59 391.4-31. Accordingly, Applicants are now clarifying that the subject documents are not prior art references against the present application, and therefore need not be further considered.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 29706969 U1. Claim 1 and 8 are independent

¹ On the PTO-1449, Office Action dated October 6, 2003 was erroneously listed as an Office Action dated October 23, 2003.

claims. Applicants are clarifying an aspect of each of independent claims 1 and 8 that is not disclosed by DE 29706969 U1.

Claim 1 provides for a method that includes connecting a configuration device to a coupling location of an intelligent unit. Applicants are clarifying that the coupling location is a coupling location to which the intelligent unit has to be adapted. Applicants are also clarifying that the configuration device is part of a permanent wiring of the coupling location, and always remains at the coupling location to which the intelligent unit has to be adapted even if the intelligent unit is replaced. The publication of the present application, i.e., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US Pub 20060142876, discloses these features in paragraphs 7, 10, 12, 13, 23, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 40, and FIG. 1.

DE 29706969 U1 is a German-language document. On 26 FEB 2010, Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement with which Applicants provided an English translation of DE 29706969 U1 (hereinafter "the English translation").

DE 29706969 U1 describes an apparatus for saving system configuration data for the purpose of prevention of the loss of data if a concerning electronic system is to be replaced (English translation, page 1, lines 5 – 9). A control unit 1 has an effect on an electrical actuator 10 that drives an automatic door 11 of an elevator (English translation, page 4, lines 3 – 6). Control unit 1 is connected via a connecting cable 3 to a peripheral device, e.g. in the form of digital encoder 4, and a plug-in module 5 is connected to connecting cable 3 (English translation, page 3, lines 23 – 26). Plug-in module 5 includes a memory module for storage of system configuration data (English translation, page 2, lines 12 – 15; page 3, lines 25 – 36).

On page 3 of the Office Action, with regard to claim 1, the examiner appears to equate cable 3 of DE 29706969 U1 with the coupling location of claim 1.

However, DE 29706969 U1 states that "the control unit 1 has via a cable 9 an effect on an electrical actuator 10 which in this embodiment tries an automatic door 11 of an elevator arrangement

with two wings of the door 12" (English translation page 4 lines 2-5). Therefore, if a person is looking for similarities between DE 29706969 U1 and claim 1, the location of cable 9 and electrical actuator 10 is the coupling location to which control unit 1 would have to be adapted.

In DE 29706969 U1, digital encoder 4 is a peripheral device, to which control unit 1 is connected via plug-in module 5 and cable 3. Digital encoder 4 is not permanently coupled with cable 9 or electrical actuator 10 and hence, it is not ensured that plug-in module 5 always remains at the location of cable 9 and electrical actuator 10, even if plug-in module 5 was part of cable 3 and digital encoder 4.

In DE 29706969 U1, an incorrect plug-in module (similar to plug-in module 5) could be erroneously inserted in place of plug-in module 5, and as such, control unit 1 would be mated with the incorrect plug-in module. Consequently, control unit 1 would not be properly configured. This problem would not occur if the method of claim 1 was employed.

Whereas in DE 29706969 U1, control unit 1 has to be adapted to the location of cable 9 or electrical actuator 10, and whereas DE 29706969 U1 does not disclose, that plug-in module 5, cable 3 or digital encoder 4 is part of a permanent part of a location to which control unit 1 has to be adapted, i.e., the location of cable 9 or electrical actuator 10, Applicants respectfully submit that DE 29706969 U1 does not disclose:

connecting a configuration device to a coupling location of an intelligent unit **to which the intelligent unit has to be adapted** in a system,

wherein **the configuration device is part of a permanent wiring of the coupling location**, ...

and ... remains at the coupling location **to which the intelligent unit has to be adapted**

even if the intelligent unit is replaced,

as recited in claim 1. Therefore, DE 29706969 U1 does not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 8 includes a recital similar to that of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 8, for reasoning similar to that of claim 1, is also not anticipated by DE 29706969 U1.

Claims 2 – 7 and 31 depend from claim 1. Claims 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28 and 32 depend from claim 8. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2 – 7, 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are also novel over DE 29706969 U1.

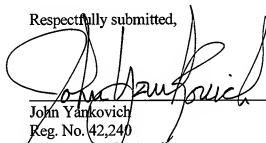
Applicants are requesting reconsideration and a withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 19 – 25 and 27 – 32.

As mentioned above, Applicants are clarifying an aspect of each of independent claims 1 and 8 that is not disclosed by DE 29706969 U1. Applicants are not presently making any further amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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